



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 5853

LCO No. 2893

02893_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF STATE FOREST
TIMBER SALES, THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION FOR CONNECTICUT
STATE FORESTS AND A SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT
PLAN.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 23-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall administer the
4 statutes relating to forestry and the protection of forests. The
5 commissioner may employ such field and office assistants as may be
6 necessary for the execution of his or her duties. The commissioner
7 may, from time to time, publish the forestry laws of the state and other
8 literature of general interest and practical value pertaining to forestry.
9 The commissioner may enter into cooperation with departments of the
10 federal government for the promotion of forest resource management
11 and protection within the state. The commissioner may, with the
12 assistance of the State Forester, develop and administer plans for the
13 protection and management of publicly-owned woodlands. Such plans
14 shall include, but not be limited to proposals for the establishment of

15 forest plantations and the marketing of forest products. The
16 commissioner may apply to have publicly-owned woodlands or
17 products from such woodlands certified or licensed under one or more
18 of the following, provided the commissioner uses private funding
19 from gifts, donations or bequests, as authorized in this section, for the
20 cost of all such applications: (1) The sustainable Forestry Initiative
21 Program, (2) the American Tree Farm System, (3) the Canadian
22 Standards Association's Sustainable Management System Standards,
23 (4) the Finnish Standard, (5) the Forest Stewardship Council, (6) the
24 Pan-European Forest Certification Program, (7) the Swedish Standards,
25 (8) the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme, or (9) the Smart
26 Wood Program, as administered by the Rainforest Alliance. The
27 commissioner shall implement any sustainable forestry practice
28 necessary for such certification or licensure. The commissioner may
29 accept, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection, any
30 gifts, donations or bequests for the purposes of applying for and
31 obtaining such certification or licensure. The commissioner may
32 harvest forest products from woodlands owned by the state and take
33 such other measures as he or she deems necessary for their efficient
34 management and protection, may sell wood, timber and other
35 products from any state woodlands whenever he or she deems such
36 sales desirable and may develop recreational facilities in the
37 woodlands managed by the Department of Environmental Protection.
38 The commissioner shall charge no less than ten dollars per cord for any
39 such wood or timber sold as fuel. The commissioner may rent state
40 forest property and buildings thereon under his or her jurisdiction for
41 a period not exceeding twenty-five years, provided any lease for such
42 property and building for a term of more than ten years shall be
43 subject to the review and approval of the State Properties Review
44 Board. The proceeds of such sales, rentals and any receipts resulting
45 from management of the state forests, or from reimbursements from
46 other state departments or state institutions, shall be deposited in the
47 General Fund in accordance with the provisions of section 4-32,
48 provided the amount of annual proceeds in excess of [eight hundred

49 seventy-five thousand] one million dollars derived from the sale of
50 wood, timber and other products from publicly-owned woodlands
51 shall be deposited in the Conservation Fund, as established in section
52 22a-27h. Expenditures incurred by the commissioner for the
53 protection, management and development of the forests, the
54 preparation and marketing of forest products and the acquisition of
55 land for the extension and completion of the state forests as provided
56 in section 23-21 shall be paid with moneys appropriated from the
57 General Fund. The provisions of this section shall not apply to land
58 owned or managed by the state on which forest resource management
59 measures may be restricted by deed, statute, or incompatible use. As
60 used in this section, woodland means land owned or managed by a
61 state agency and stocked with forest tree species not less than six
62 hundred stems per acre and at least one year old.

63 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2010,
64 the Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall obtain dual third-
65 party forest certification of Connecticut state forests. For purposes of
66 this section, "dual third-party forest certification" means independent
67 forest evaluation and certification by an industry and a
68 nongovernmental certification agency, to ensure the harvesting of
69 timber is undertaken in an environmentally sound and sustainable
70 manner.

71 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before July 1, 2009,
72 the Department of Environmental Protection shall, in consultation with
73 the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, The University of
74 Connecticut and any other entities deemed appropriate by said
75 commissioner, complete a study regarding sustainable harvesting of
76 forests in this state.

77 (b) The Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation
78 with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, The University
79 of Connecticut and any other such entities deemed appropriate by said
80 commissioner, shall develop a sustainable forest harvesting plan based

81 on the results of the study completed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
 82 section. The plan shall take into account carbon credit opportunities
 83 and the potential for maintaining a sustainable supply of biomass
 84 fuels.

85 (c) Not later than July 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Environmental
 86 Protection shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
 87 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the
 88 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
 89 environment the conclusions of the study completed pursuant to
 90 subsection (a) of this section.

91 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of two hundred thousand
 92 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
 93 Protection, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
 94 2009, to implement the provisions of section 3 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	23-20
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To increase the current allocation of state timber sales, to require third-party certification of state forests and to study, develop and fund a plan regarding sustainable harvesting of state forests.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]